

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

MARIO SPATAFORA

Serial No.: 10/635,375

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Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Unassigned

) I hereby certify that this) paper is being deposited) with the United States) Postal Service with) sufficient postage, as) first class mail, in an) envelope addressed to:) Commissioner for Patents) P.O. Box 1450) Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dated: January 13, 2004

James J. Napoli V Registration No. 32,361

Attorney for Applicants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicant hereby brings to the examiner's attention patents that may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Therefore, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, applicant encloses a completed Form PTO-1449 listing the possibly pertinent patents and a copy of each non-U.S. patent.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months after the filing date of the above-identified application, and, to applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R.

\$1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed for the convenience of the examiner.

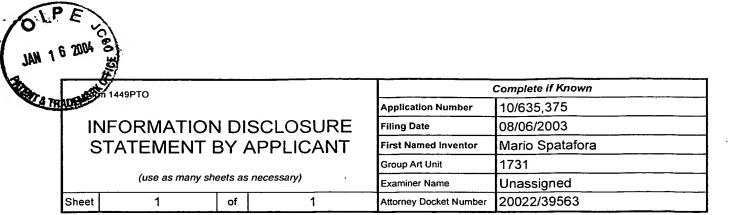
Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

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Chicago, Illinois January 14, 2004



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY			
		FOREIGN PATENT I	DOCUMENTS			

	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY					
		3,426,713 (DE)	01/30/1986					
		0 519 400 (EPO)	12/23/1992					
		0 900 730 (EPO)	031/10/1999					

OTHER PRIOR ART – NONPATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		

Examiner		Date
Signature	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Considered

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.